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AppropriationTestimony  
re Bill 6354

I applaud your efforts to reduce costs and improve service and accountability. This should be the goal of all government agencies and one that the electorate should insist upon.

To that end I understand that the State Election Enforcement Commission is potentially being reorganized to report to the governor's office. While I admire Governor Malloy's many efforts to improve government, I feel that long-term the changes in Bill 6354 could be detrimental as one can not assume that all future administrations will behave according to these standards. Perhaps there is room to leave SEEC in place as is, but provide some system of independent management review. I have worked with election officers who have been diligent, hard-working public officials. They are essential to the treasurers of political campaigns as the many regulations for campaigns can be difficult to apply (especially for first time treasurers). The same is true of staff attorneys I have spoken to. The computer system personnel have been more elusive to me, as they do not pick up their phone lines directly. The eCris system has many good features, but does not interface well with Excel (Microsoft Office) the system I use for maintaining records. I'm not sure that the governor's proposals would improve the system, without compromising effective review of political campaigns.

I urge you to re-evaluate your proposal for dismantling this commission and seek efficiencies that incorporate independent operation of this body.

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